

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1899.

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THE HIGHEST AIM OF THE PHYSICIST.*

GENTLEMEN AND FELLOW PHYSICISTS OF AMERICA: We meet to day on an occasion which marks an epoch in the history of physics in America; may the future show that it also marks an epoch in the history of the science which this Society is organized to cultivate! For we meet here in the interest of a science which above all sciences deals with the foundation of the Universe, with the constitution of matter from which everything in the Universe is made and with the ether of space by which alone the various portions of matter forming the Universe affect each other even at such distances as we may never expect to traverse, whatever the progress of our science in the future.

We, who have devoted our lives to the solution of problems connected with physics, now meet together to help each other and to forward the interests of the subject which we love. A subject which appeals most strongly to the better instincts of our nature and the problems of which tax our minds to the limit of their capacity and suggest the grandest and noblest ideas of which they are capable.

In a country where the doctrine of the equal rights of man has been distorted to mean the equality of man in other respects,

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

* Address delivered to the Physical Society of America by the President, at its meeting in New York, October 28, 1899.